

DRAFT PUBLIC STATEMENT ON TURKISH PROPOSAL

The USSR this morning made a specific proposal regarding Turkey. Turkey is a member of the NATO alliance created to provide for the Joint Defense of Western Europe. Any decision regarding weapons in Turkey must, of course, be considered by the members of NATO in the context of over-all European security.

The United States and its Allies have long advocated arrangements to eliminate the dangers of surprise attack. The United States stands ready as always to pursue negotiations to this end.

If the Soviet Union now wishes to discuss specific arrangements which could lead to a reduction of dangers in Europe, the United States for its part, and in consultation with its NATO Allies would be prepared to enter promptly into such discussions. It would be our hope that prompt agreement could be reached on mutually satisfactory measures leading to a reduction of tensions in Europe. Should such discussions result in a mutual reduction in the treat of nuclear missiles under effective international inspection, the cause of peace would surely have been advanced.

However, it is clear that discussions which affect the security of the nations of Western Europe cannot be tied to the threat to the security of the Western Hemisphere which has recently been created by the secret introduction of offensive weapons into Cuba.